

Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 N. 25 E.

Chesterton, Indiana 46304

NC # (219) 926-1390

Park Manager: Brandt Baughman

Asst. Park Manager: Doug Stuke



Dwarf Ginseng on Trail 2

Nature Center Staff:

Brad Bumgardner

David Garner

April Nature Center Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CDT

Daily

www.interpretiveservices.in.gov

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. Children under 12, please bring a parent with you.

Friday April 3

11am Singing Sands Pre-School Hour!!

Join us each Friday in the month of April as we explore nature with kids 3-5 years of age. Registration is limited to 15 kids and pre-registration closes the Thursday before each program. Children will learn a new topic every week, with activities, stories, and a short nature hike. \$5.00 program fee payable the day of the program. Call (219) 926-1390 to sign up. ***This week's topic: Foxes!***

Saturday April 4

8am-1pm 13th Annual Native Plant Sale!

Join the Friends of Indiana Dunes as the 13th Annual Native Plant Sale takes place all morning in the State Park Pavilion. Over 100 species of hard to find native plants will be on sale that day. Come early, before they're gone. More info can be found at www.friendsofindianadunes.org, or call the Nature Center.

10am Spring Stroll! Strap on your hiking shoes as we explore the sights and sounds of the spring forest. Meet at the Nature Center and bring your eyes and ears! Join us! DG

2pm Bird Banding Demonstrations! See wild birds close up! Join the State Park Naturalists for this special program. The Naturalists will offer close up looks at many species of birds in the hand. Learn about bird migration and more at the Nature Center. Fun for the entire family! BB

Sunday April 5

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. DG

2pm The Natural Heritage of Indiana! Join us in the month of April for a special presentation of this amazing documentary that explores "a celebration of Indiana's natural heritage." Each week we will feature one episode in this four part series. Produced in 2008 by WFYI in Indianapolis, each episode is one hour, free, and meets in the Nature Center auditorium. ***This week's episode: The Indiana That Was***

Friday April 10

11am Singing Sands Pre-School Hour!! Join us each Friday in the month of April as we explore nature with kids 3-5 years of age. Registration is limited to 15 kids and pre-registration closes the Thursday before each program. Children will learn a new topic every week, with activities, stories, and a short nature hike. \$5.00 program fee payable the day of the program. Call (219) 926-1390 to sign up. ***This week's topic: Opossums! !***

Saturday April 11

10am Early Spring Flora. Join us this morning for a look at the early spring wildflowers. We'll be on the look out for skunk cabbage, spicebush, and more on this 45-minute stroll. Meet at the Nature Center. BB

2pm Scavenger Hunt! Explore the new world of the high tech scavenger hunt! Tag along as we show you how to use a GPS and find some secret caches in the park, in the new hobby of geocaching. Meet at the Nature Center for this 45 minute hunt. Prizes for the kids. BB

7pm Frogs in Love! Join us for a frog safari this evening! By now the frogs should be singing the sounds of love in the park's swamps and marshes. Bring your sense of adventure and a flashlight (and waterproof boots if you have some!) and meet at the Wilson Shelter. From there, we'll venture into the swamps for a close up look at what the early spring frogs are doing. Great family fun! Join us! BB

Sunday April 12

Happy Easter!

10am Easter Bird Feast! Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. BB

2pm The Natural Heritage of Indiana! Join us in the month of April for a special presentation of this amazing documentary that explores "a celebration of Indiana's natural heritage." Each week we will feature one episode in this four part series. Produced in 2008 by WFYI in Indianapolis, each episode is one hour, free, and meets in the Nature Center auditorium. **This week's episode: Life in the Water**

Friday April 17

11am Singing Sands Pre-School Hour!! Join us each Friday in the month of April as we explore nature with kids 3-5 years of age. Registration is limited to 15 kids and pre-registration closes the Thursday before each program. Children will learn a new topic every week, with activities, stories, and a short nature hike. \$5.00 program fee payable the day of the program. Call (219) 926-1390 to sign up. **This week's topic: Birds!**

Saturday April 18

Visit the Dunes Staff at the Northwest Indiana Earth Day festivities at Sunset Hills County Park Today!

10:00am Earth Day Hike. Come and enjoy Earth Day with a naturalist. Meet at the Nature Center for an hour stroll through the dune woodlands. Enjoy wildflowers, birds, and other sights today. We'll also bring a garbage bag to do our good on this green day! Strap on the hiking shoes and join us! BB

2pm Capturing Spring's Beauty. Join us this afternoon for a fun look at photography and capturing Spring's wildflowers, mushrooms, and more. Volunteer park photographer Nature Center host Carl Swisher will show some of the tips and tricks for close-up photography. Meet at the Nature Center for this 45-minute talk and short walk. Bring a camera too!

Sunday April 19

10am Bird Banding Demonstrations! See wild birds close up! Join the State Park Naturalists for this special program. The Naturalists will offer close up looks at many species of birds in the hand. Learn about bird migration and more at the Nature Center. Fun for the entire family! BB

2pm The Natural Heritage of Indiana! Join us in the month of April for a special presentation of this amazing documentary that explores "a celebration of Indiana's natural heritage." Each week we will feature one episode in this four part series. Produced in 2008 by WFYI in Indianapolis, each episode is one hour, free, and meets in the Nature Center auditorium. **This week's episode: Life on Land**

Friday April 24

11am Singing Sands Pre-School Hour!! Join us each Friday in the month of April as we explore nature with kids 3-5 years of age. Registration is limited to 15 kids and pre-registration closes the Thursday before each program. Children will learn a new topic every week, with activities, stories, and a short nature hike. \$5.00 program fee payable the day of the program. Call (219) 926-1390 to sign up. **This week's topic: Butterflies!**

Saturday April 25

10am Wildflower Walk, Join a naturalist on a 60 minute easy walk along trail 2 in search of spring wildflowers. Meet at the Wilson Shelter. DG

2pm Snakes, Frogs, and Salamander! Join a naturalist in the Nature Center for a 30 minutes program on snake, frogs, and salamanders. Participants will get an up close look at live animals. After the program we will go and look for the creatures in their own habitat. DG

Sunday April 26

10am Garlic Mustard Massacre. Join the Indiana Dunes State Park as we promote "Healthy Parks, Healthy People". Meet at the Nature Center for a short stroll exploring the plant life of the dunes. We'll also be stopping to eliminate the invasive plant garlic mustard along the way. It's a great way to get in shape and help the park stay healthy. We'll be out for about an hour. DG

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Reserve a special hike or program for your group!

Naturalists have been helping visitors get the most from their duneland adventures since 1931. Separate from public programming, the interpretive naturalist service of the park remains available today, revealing the secrets of the dunes to school, church, company, and scout groups year round with a variety of tailored programs and hikes. For a \$1.00 per person fee, reservations can be made from 6 months to two weeks in advance. The Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center is now scheduling spring field trips! Call the Nature Center and schedule your group's adventure today! (219) 926-1390

Spring Birdathon to Benefit Indiana Dunes!



For the second year, our intrepid team from the Indiana DNR will be setting out to record our goal of 140 species to raise money for the Friends of Indiana Dunes. On Saturday, May 16th our team will be starting at 2:30am for owls, whippoorwills, and nighthawks, and race towards the finish line by 7pm, picking up raptors, shorebirds, and warblers along the way.

How can you help raise money for the Friends of Indiana Dunes? It's easy. Simply fill out a pledge form found here in the Nature Center and send it back by May 14th (do it today, while it is on your mind!). Last year, some teams saw between 85 and 160 species of birds. If you had pledged a dime for 140 species, you would have 14.00...you get the idea! If you want to challenge our team with an extra \$5.00 for a specific bird, maybe your favorite rare bird, please do so. This is a fun way to raise money for a very worthwhile cause.

The full list of birds will be sent to all that pledge, and allow us to set some goals for next year. Also, your contribution is tax deductible as allowed by law. All donations support the new bird tower fundraising project in the state park.